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Presidência da República

B. Maes
Broederlijk Belen
Konningsstraat 171
1030 BRUSSEL - BELGICA

Lisbon, 27 October 1982.

Dear Sir

The President of the Republic of Portugal, General Antônio Ramalho Eanes, asked me to thank you for your determined commitment to the principle of self-determination of peoples, as shown in your attitude regarding East-Timor.

As you probably know, Portugal has taken in the last months decisiv steps in order to pave the way for a peaceful settlement of the ques- tion of East-Timor, both in terms of the political autonomy of the East-Timorese people and of the safeguard of basic human rights of fre dom and dignity, food, shelter, health and education.

A new draft-resolution, co-sponsored by all the Portuguese-speaking countries and by other countries fully supportive of the re-establish- ment of human rights in East-Timor will be discussed during the coming days in the IV Committee of the United Nations General Assembly.

The international community, through the vote of the National gover mental delegations and through the interventions of the NGO's with co sultive status in the UN, will have to decide the value they actually give to the basic principles of the Charter.

President Eanes considers that, given the impact of your organisati your public stand (and whatever means of clarifying the issue are avai lable to you) will certainly be a major asset in helping the authoriti of your country to re-appraise the East-Timor question and to formulat a policy of intervention in the UN debates and of the vote to be cast conducive to the defense of the human rights of the individuals and th people of East-Timor.

Thanking you again for all your efforts in the past and in the futu

Yours sincerely,

THE HEAD OF THE CIVILIAN STAFF.